BURNSTEIN

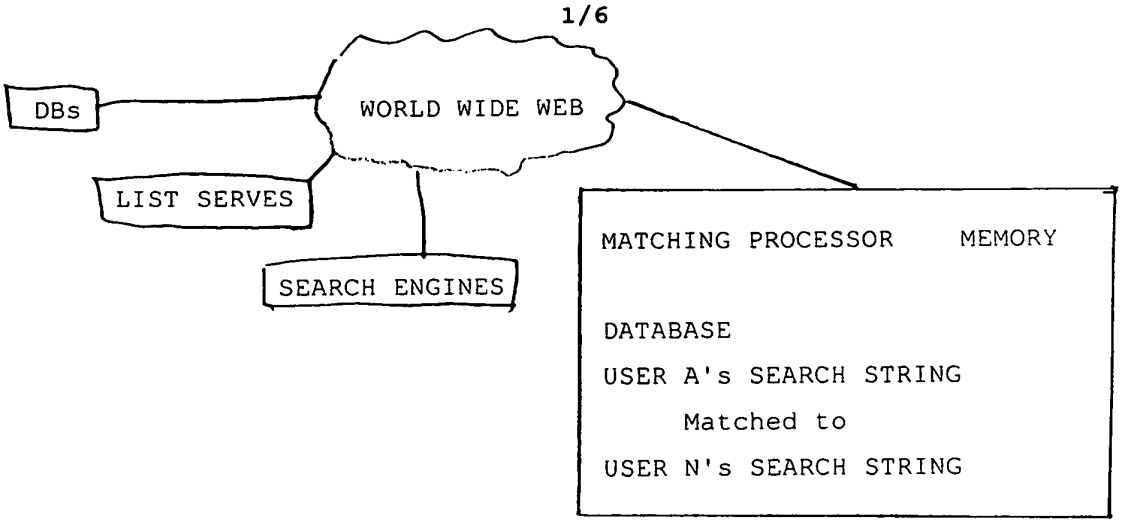

FIG. 1

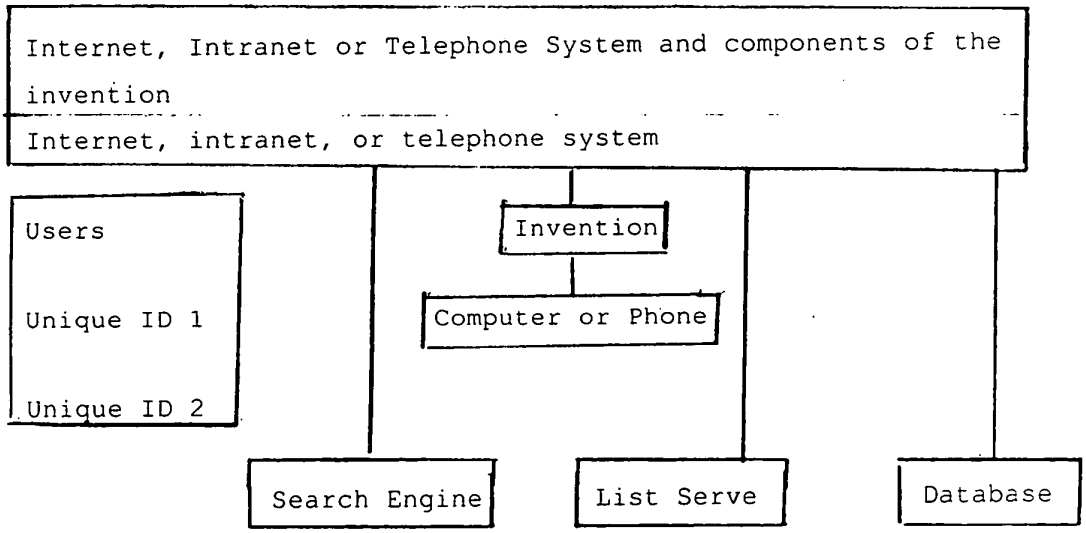

FIG. 2

BURNSTEIN

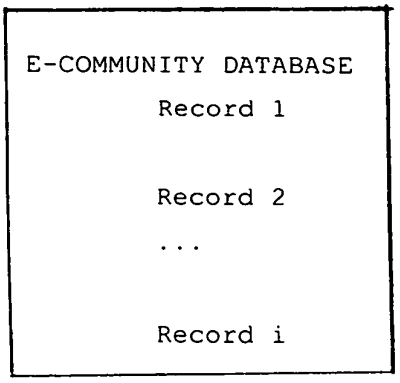

FIG. 3

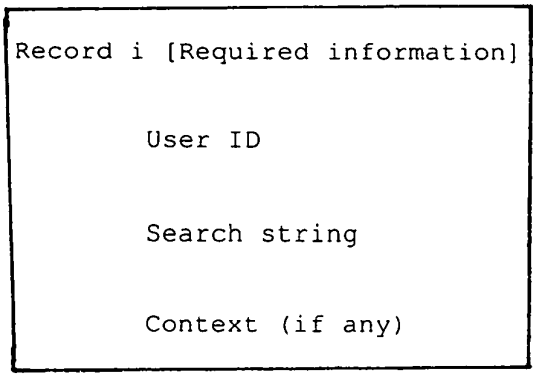

FIG. 4

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BURNSTEIN

Record I [Optional information]

date/time

context

matching disable

anonymity

preferred means of input, output (phone, fax, email, etc.)

FIG. 5

the record 1 after search by dan@buzzit.com for "Boston Red Sox"

User ID: dan@buzzit.com

Search string: "Boston Red Sox"

Community: Null

FIG. 6

BURNSTEIN

record 2 after search by carl@myisp.com for "Boston Red Sox"

User ID: carl@myisp.com

Search string: "Boston Red Sox"

Community: Null

FIG. 7

Records 1+2 after dan@buzzit.com and carl@myisp.com agree to form community "Boston Red Sox"

Record 1

User ID: dan@buzzit.com

Search string: "Boston Red Sox"

Community: "Boston Red Sox"

Record 2

User ID: carl@myisp.com

Search string: "Boston Red Sox"

Community: "Boston Red Sox"

FIG. 8

listserve after dan@buzzit.com and carl@myisp.com agree to form community "Boston Red Sox"

Community: "Boston Red Sox"

Members: User ID: dan@buzzit.com or phone #X

User ID: carl@myisp.com or phone #Y

FIG. 9

BURNSTEIN

SAME OR SIMILAR TERM MATCHING

Same or Similar Searches simple string match OR

stored database within the system with a weighted string match, the query assigns points to items in the system based on an inverse overall frequency score so 'rare' words get higher scores than common words

returns the items with the highest overall scores.

MATCH METHODS

The match methods of the invention further incorporate As many methods as are useful to find a match:

closeness,

thesaurus expansion

thesaurus inclusion

sounds-like base search using soundex or similar

soundex-enhanced thesaurus - words or cross-references with synonyms of soundex-expansions;

syntactic connectedness: increase the score where the words fall on the same branch of a parse tree (using any of several parsing methods);

semantic connectedness: replace the syntactic parse with

BURNSTEIN

semantic analysis, based, e.g. CYC technology or transformational analysis.

FIG. 10

USERS CAN COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY THROUGH
PHONE
FAX
COMPUTER
BULLETIN BOARD
CHAT ROOM
INSTANT MESSAGING
SMS MESSAGING

FIG. 11

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